



**Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney**

# **2017 Annual Report**



Friend,

It's been an honor to continue to serve the Hudson Valley in the 115th Congress. Over the past year, I have made it a priority to reach across the aisle and through Washington gridlock to get things done for my neighbors.

I believe folks in Congress should be transparent and accountable - that's why every year for the past five years I've compiled a comprehensive end-of-year report, which includes everything I've gotten done for the people I represent.

I'm proud to let you know I've introduced 24 pieces of legislation, four of which passed the House, and two that were signed into law.

Some of the most important work I do is right here at home in the Hudson Valley. Just this year, my office has cut through bureaucratic red tape to return \$7.7 million in earned benefits to over 1,200 hard-working taxpayers, including seniors, veterans, and people owed money from the IRS.

I hope to continue hearing your ideas for how to bring America together to build a safer, stronger, and more prosperous nation for all of us.

If I can be of service, or if you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office.

It has been my honor to represent you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sean Maloney", is positioned below the text.

Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress



### Getting Things Done for Hudson Valley Residents and Small Businesses in 2017

- Returned \$7.7 million to Hudson Valley taxpayers who were owed payments for veterans benefits, Social Security, Medicare, and the IRS.
- Served over 1,200 constituents, including 265 veterans
- Hosted 15 in-person "Speak with Sean" town halls
- Secured 52 medals and awards for veterans and servicemembers

### Getting Things Done Despite Washington Gridlock in 2017

- Introduced 24 pieces of legislation in the House of Representatives
- Passed 4 pieces of legislation through the House, with 2 signed into law
- Cosponsored 277 bills
- Cast 674 votes with a 98.5% attendance record



## **Maloney Legislation Passed into Law in 2017**

### **H.R. 3196, Protecting Servicemembers from Debt Collectors Act**

The bill requires the Department of Defense to provide clear protections for servicemembers from predatory debt collection practices.

### **H.R. 1348, Investing in Testing Act**

Would Require the CDC to conduct a scientific study on the human health impacts of exposure to PFOS and PFOA contamination in drinking water.

## **Maloney Legislation Passed through the House in 2017**

### **H.R. 2619, Anchorages Away Act**

The bill would prevent the Coast Guard from establishing federally designated anchorages in the Hudson River until they submit to Congress a report on the impacts of those anchorages on Superfund sites and critical habitats of endangered species.

### **Defunding Anchorages Amendment**

The amendment would defund future attempts to create anchorage sites on the Hudson River between Yonkers and Kingston. The amendment passed as part of the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2018 but has not been taken up by the Senate.





## Other Maloney Bills Introduced in 2017

H.R. 3194, Disabled Veterans Red Tape Reduction Act – This bill will reauthorize an important VA program which will allow veterans to have their medical examinations done by physicians outside the VA system to help process veterans' disability claims faster.

H.R. 2895, LGBT Pride Act - The LGBT PRIDE Act would require the CDC to improve its data collection on sexual orientation and gender identity and authorize \$25 million to fund the effort.

H.R. 4585, Save Net Neutrality Act – This bill would invalidate the FCC's rule which ended Net Neutrality internet protections.

H.R. 4663, Know Your Vets Act – Would allow service members who are leaving the military to opt-in to share their DD-214 with their local county veterans service office to ensure they have better access to the benefits and services they've earned.

H.R. 2485, Airplane KITS Act – Would require the FAA to update its regulations to ensure that emergency medical kits carried on airplanes contain equipment and medication to meet the emergency medical needs of children.

H.R. 3193, Gregg Wenzel Clandestine Heroes Parity Act - Improves death gratuities paid to the survivors of deceased officers and employees of the Central Intelligence Agency to bring to parity with members of the armed forces.

H.R. 2808, First Time Homeowner Savings Plan Act - The bill allows Americans to withdraw up to \$25,000 from their IRA for the purchase of their first home without being penalized when they file their taxes.

H.R. 4411, American Students Abroad Act – The bill would require the State Department to generate quarterly reports from U.S. Embassies and Consulates on the death of any U.S. citizens in a foreign country. These reports would be sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), who would analyze trends in violence and issue reports.

H.R. 3195, Honor Guardsmen and Reservists Act – The bill allows memorial headstone or grave markers to be made available for purchase by Guard or Reserve members who served for at least six years.

H.R. 2984, High Risk Pool, No Reward Act - The bill would restrict Members who represent a state with a waiver of the continuous coverage penalty if the state allows the use of health status underwriting -- these Members are only allowed to enroll in the individual market in their state and to the extent possible through a high-risk program in the same manner as their constituents who are eligible to enroll in such coverage.

H.R. 2985, No Carve Out for Congress Act - The bill would restrict Members who represent a state with an essential health benefits (EHB) waiver to the lowest actuarial value health insurance coverage available under the waiver in their state.



## Other Maloney Bills Introduced in 2017

H.R. 2986, Good for the Gander Act - The bill would restrict Members who represent a state with a premium age band waiver to the highest age band premium for health insurance coverage available under the waiver in their state.

H.R. 1504, Hudson River Protection Act – The bill prohibit the establishment of areas located within five miles of a nuclear power plant, a location on the national register of historic places, a superfund site, or critical habitat of an endangered species as anchorage grounds in U.S. navigable waters for vessels carrying hazardous or flammable material as cargo.

H.R. 968, Equal Justice Under Law Act - The bill would empower indigent criminal defendants to take action against states and localities that systematically fail to provide effective assistance of counsel in felony cases.

H.R. 2971, For the relief of Martin Martinez

H.R. 4259, Lifesaving Librarians Act - The bill would directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a grant program to allow public libraries in High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTAs) to purchase naloxone rescue kits and/or provide training to enable employees to use naloxone rescue kits.

H.R. 1763, Keeping Communities Safe through Treatment Act - The bill would award grants, funded through the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs, to assist law enforcement agencies in providing pre-booking diversion programs developed with local drug treatment programs and local prosecutors to address low-level drug crimes.

H.R. 4410, Ravi Thackurdeen Safe Students Study Abroad Act - The bill would require institutes of higher education to issue biennial reports on their efforts to protect students studying abroad and provide crime statistics on those students as part of their annual campus security report.

H.R. 1683, National Purple Heart Hall of Honor Commemorative Coin Act - This legislation would honor the Purple Heart Hall of Honor with a commemorative coin provided by the U.S. Mint. Proceeds from this program will go to the Purple Heart Hall of Honor, Inc. for projects and programs at the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor that help preserve the memory and sacrifices of our service men and women who were wounded or killed in combat.

H.R. 969, Gideon Act - The bill would establish a federal corporation dedicated to delivering independent, uniform, and quality defense representation in criminal cases before the United States Supreme Court and, at times, in the highest courts in the states.

H.R. 4201, Young and Beginning Farmers Act - The bill focuses on three primary areas of concern for young farmers: access to land, USDA programs for young and beginning farmers, and investments in local and regional food systems.



## Securing Key Federal Investments to Support the Hudson Valley

I've worked to deliver much-needed investments to improve our infrastructure, grow our economy, protect our farmlands, and fight crime. Just this year, my team and I have fought to secure nearly \$20 million in federal investments for the Hudson Valley. Some highlights include:

- **\$550,286** for new life-saving protective equipment and technology for fire departments throughout the district
- **\$1,100,000** to support early childhood programs for **227** children in eastern Orange County through Head Start
- **\$70,000** to develop a comprehensive economic development strategy for the Hudson Valley
- **\$15,633,044** to support and expand the runway rehabilitation project at Stewart International Airport
- **\$300,000** to support efforts to develop and preserve affordable housing, revitalize and sustain neighborhoods, and create jobs
- **\$7,554** to allow emergency medical staff in the Town of Newburgh to purchase pagers
- **\$150,000** to support the continuation of temporary housing, food, and counseling services to homeless youth in Orange County
- **\$297,332** to combat violence against women on the Mount Saint Mary College campus
- **\$130,000** to fund research in an effort to combat the Allium Leafminer invasive species threatening Orange County's onion industry
- **\$404,650** to support the next generation of farmers and ranchers through the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP)
- **\$500,000** to continue combating the heroin and opioid epidemic plaguing the Hudson Valley



# Focusing on Important Priorities for the Hudson Valley

## Keeping our Promises to Servicemembers and Veterans

As the son of a Navy Veteran, I'm committed to ensuring that our veterans don't have to come home to fight the government for the benefits they earned after they fought for our country. One of my top priorities has always been to help our veterans cut through red tape and get the top-notch services they deserve.

**Protecting Servicemembers from Predatory Debt collectors** – Just this month, the President signed the defense bill into law, which included legislation I introduced to make sure our servicemembers have the same protections from predatory debt collectors as civilians. If you're a civilian who happens to be in debt, a debt collector isn't allowed to call your boss to try and collect payment. That's how it should be, but our servicemembers don't enjoy the same protections. My bill, the Protecting Servicemembers from Debt Collectors Act, will fix this problem by requiring the Department of Defense to update its regulations.

**Combating Veterans Homelessness** – In July, I introduced the Housing our Heroes Act, which would rehabilitate "zombie" properties and make them available to veterans who need a place to call home. We've got all these zombie properties dragging down home values and housing criminal activities, and we've got veterans living on the streets or struggling to buy a home – it doesn't take a genius to figure out that we can kill two birds with one stone here.

**Helping Veterans Safely Transition Back into Civilian Life** – The transition from the military can be a difficult time for veterans. Some veterans struggle with finding a good job, adjusting to family life, or just feeling at home in the civilian world. Veterans Service Officers are available to assist new veterans, but these VSOs have no way of knowing that a recently discharged veteran has returned home or moved to their community. That's why I introduced the Know Your Vets Act, which would give veterans the option of having their final certificate of discharge paperwork sent to a county VSO based on wherever they're moving. This notification will allow VSOs to proactively reach out to offer assistance and ensure the new veteran has a smooth transition back to civilian life.





## Protecting the Hudson River

The Hudson River is a national treasure that we have to protect for our kids and grandkids. From fighting for a real PCB cleanup, to stopping the Coast Guard's proposal to install ten new anchorage sites on the Hudson, I am laser-focused on making sure we maintain the progress we've made towards getting the river cleaned up.

**Stopping the Anchorages Proposal** - As you may know, in 2016, the U.S. Coast Guard announced plans to install ten new anchorage sites on the Hudson River between Yonkers and Kingston. These sites would have held 43 berths that would allow big commercial ships – like oil barges – to park along the river. Just about everyone I talked to on both sides of the aisle thought this was a terrible idea – and I did too. That's why I worked to kill the initial proposal and I'll keep working to ensure any future proposals will keep our river clean and our river towns safe. Here's some of the progress we've made:

After meeting with the Coast Guard, delivering hundreds of comments in opposition to the proposal, and passing legislation through the House, I announced a major victory in June - the Coast Guard agreed to kill the initial proposal. This was a victory the Hudson Valley won together.

Instead of moving forward with their disastrous proposal, the Coast Guard opted to hold a Ports and Waterways Safety Assessment (PAWSA) to evaluate all of the safety concerns and gauge the need for such a proposal. I've been monitoring the PAWSA process and stood with other local officials in November to reaffirm our commitment to preventing any long-term anchorages from being built.

I also worked to pass an amendment through the House of Representatives which would defund attempts to build anchorage sites between Yonkers and Kingston until at least September of 2018.



## Cleaning up Contaminated Water in Newburgh

In 2016, the City of Newburgh discovered that its municipal water supply had been contaminated with chemicals called PFOS/PFOA by runoff from Stewart Air National Guard Base. Since then, I've worked to ensure that the people of Newburgh have a clean water source, that we stop the contamination, and that the Department of Defense pays to clean up the mess they made.

**Passing Legislation to Study the Long-Term Health Effects of PFOS/PFOA Exposure** - My legislation, the Investing in Testing Act, was passed into law earlier this month. My bill requires the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to conduct a five-year, \$7 million federal study into the long-term health effects of PFOS/PFOA exposure. We know a lot of folks in Newburgh have higher levels of PFOS in their blood than the national average – we just don't know what that means for their long-term health. My bill will fix that problem.

I was also proud to announce that the defense bill includes \$323 million for the U.S. Air Force's Environmental Restoration Fund, which is used to clean up contaminated sites throughout the country. I also stood with Senator Schumer in November to call on the Air Force to prioritize the cleanup in Newburgh.



## Fighting the Heroin and Opioid Epidemic

Everywhere I go in the Hudson Valley I hear stories of heartbreak and loss surrounding addiction. One woman in Orange County even told me she felt like she was going to the funeral of someone who died from an overdose almost every week. We have to improve prevention and treatment efforts, crack-down on traffickers, and empower our law enforcement to divert people with addictions to treatment.

**Empowering Law Enforcement to Divert People with Addictions to Treatment** - Overdose deaths are at an all-time high – it's obvious that our old ideas for combating the epidemic just aren't getting the job done. That's why I introduced the Keeping Communities Safe Through Treatment Act, which would help our law enforcement officers send low-level drug offenders directly to a treatment center instead of booking them into the criminal justice system. Programs like these are working well in Seattle, Washington and Gloucester, Massachusetts. My bill would help us build on their success.

**Helping Unexpected Heroes Save Lives** - Unfortunately, libraries have become a common site for opioid and heroin overdoses. Library staff have responded by educating themselves on the use of Narcan, an antidote which immediately reverses the effects of an overdose. That's why I introduced the Life-Saving Librarians Act, which would fund efforts at local libraries to train staff on the administration and procurement of Narcan. Our library staff are already leading the way on this – we just need to provide them with the tools and training they need to save lives.